

ARTICLES

OF

VISITATION & ENQUIRY

Concerning Matters

ECCLESIASTICAL,

Exhibited to the

Ministers, Church-Wardens, and Side-men,

OF every Parish within the Diocese of

LINCOLN,

At the Primary Visitation of the

Right Reverend Father in GOD,

THOMAS,

Barlow.

Lord Bishop of that Diocese.

L O N D O N,

Printed in the Year 1679.

ARTICLES
OF
VISITATION & EXCOMMUNICATION
The Tenor of the Oath to be Admin-
istred to the Church-wardens and
Sides-men of every Parish.

Exp'dited to the
You shall swear in Fear, Judgment, and
Righteousness, faithfully to execute the
Office of a Church-Warden within your Parish;
and according to the best of your Skill and Know-
ledge, Present such Things and Persons, as by
these Articles, and the Ecclesiastical Laws of this
Realm, you know to be Presentable. So help
you GOD.

Right Reverend Father in GOD,
THOMAS
Lord Bishop of that Diocese.



LONDON:

Printed in the Year 1790.

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ARTICLES
OF
VISITATION & ENQUIRY

Within the DIOCESS of

LINCOLN.

TIT. I.
Concerning Churches and Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture therein belonging.

IS your Church or Chappel kept in good and sufficient repair, and all things so decently ordered and kept clean, as becometh the House of God?

II. Is there in the Church (or Chappel) a Font of Stone standing in the usual, ancient place, with a Cover to it, for the Administration of Baptism? Is there also a convenient Communion-Table, covered with a fair Carpet of Silk, or other decent Stuff, in time of Divine Service; and with a fair Linnen Cloath at the time of Administring the Sacrament? What Cup, Chalice, Paten, or Flagons, have you belonging to that Service?

III. Have you in your Church (or Chappel) a convenient Seat for your Minister to read Divine Service in, and a Pulpit with a decent Cloth or Cussion for the same? Have any Pews or Seats been erected by any private person of his own authority without leave from the Ordinary?

IV. Have you a large Folio Bible of the last Translation, with two Books of Common Prayer well bound, one for the Minister, the other for the Clerk? Have you the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority, the Book of Canons, and the Table of Degrets allowed and prohibited in Marriage?

V. Have

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V. Have you a Register Book of Parchment for all who are Christened, Married, and Buried in the Parish, in which are set down the Names of the Parties, with the Day, Month and Year of each Christning, Marriage, and Burial? Is the Transcript thereof every year, within one month after the 25 of March, carried into the Bishops Registry?

VI. Have you a Paper Book in which the Names of Strangers who Preach or Officiate in the Charch (or Chappell) are set down? And another Book for the Church-Wardens Accounts?

VII. Have you a fair Surplice for the Minister to wear at all times of his publick Ministration, provided at the charge of the Parish?

VIII. Have you a Chest for Alms, with three Locks and Keys, and another Chest to keep the Books and Ornaments of the Church? Have you a Bier with a black Herse-cloth for the Burial of the dead?

IX. Is the Church-yard sufficiently fenced with Walls, Pales, or Rails, and decently kept from all annoyance or Incroachments? Are the Trees therein preserved?

X. Is the Mansion House of your Minister, with all other Houses thereto belonging, kept in good repair? Have any of them been pulled down or defaced? Have any Incroached upon the Land thereto belonging, or felled the Trees thereon growing?

XI. Have you a perfect Tearier of all Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, and Tenements belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage; also a particular List of such Pensions, Tithes, or other yearly profits (either within or without the Parish) as belong thereunto? Are any of them withheld from your Minister, as you know, or have heard, and by whom?

XII. Have any of the ancient Glebe-lands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage been taken away, or alienated by Sale or Exchange, without Licence from the Ordinary, and free consent of the Incumbent?

THE THIRD ARTICLE
Concerning Ministers.

I. Is your Minister Episcopally ordained Deacon or Priest, according to the Laws of the Realm of England? Is he defamed

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defamed or suspected to have obtained his Orders or Benefice by any Simoniack compact? Hath he been legally instituted and inducted into his Benefice? and did he within two Months after his Induction, publicly read in the Church, in the time of Divine Service, the 39 Articles of Religion, established in the Church of England? And did he then and there declare his assent therunto?

II. Hath your Minister been Licenced to Preach by the Archbishop, Bishop of this Diocess, or either of the two Universities? Doth he diligently read Divine Service, and Preach every Lords Day in the Church, unless hindered by Sicknes, or reasonable absence? And in such cases, doth he procure some lawful Minister to read Prayers, to Preach, and perform other Ministerial Duties?

III. Hath your Minister (or any other who Preached in your Church) published in his Sermons any Doctrine which is new, strange, and disagreeing from the Word of God, and the Articles of the Christian Faith, or any thing against the Doctrine or Discipline of the Church of England, as they are now established?

IV. Doth your Minister in the Morning and Evening Service, in the Administration of the Sacraments, and in performing other Religious Offices appointed by the Church of England, use the respective Forms in the Book of Common Prayer, which are enjoyed in this Church? And doth he make use of the Surplice when he reads Divine Service, or Administers the Sacraments?

V. Doth your Minister diligently Catechize the Youth of his Parish every Sunday and Holyday before Evening Service? Doth he prepare and procure them (as occasion is offered) to come and be confirmed by the Bishop? And doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants, and all Sectaries in your Parish, to the true Religion?

VI. Is your Minister a Man of sober, unblamable, and exemplary life? Is he grave, modest and regular in his outward demeanor and apparel, according to the Constitutions of the Church? Ouis his carriage, conversation, and company with

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any kind whatsoever, disorderly, or scandalous, and unbecom-
ing his Calling and Charge?

VII. Is your Minister ready to visit the Sick, and to Baptize
Infants in danger of death, being so desired? Is any Infant, or
more aged Person in the parish yet unbaptized by his default?
Have those Children which have been Baptized in private
Houses by the Minister of the Parish, afterward been brought
into the Church? and did the Minister there certify the Con-
gregation, That the true Form of Baptism was by him pri-
vately before used? Or if any Children in the Parish have
been Baptized privately by any other lawful Minister, have
those Children been brought to your Church? And hath the
Minister of the Parish there examined, whether such Children
were lawfully Baptized, or not? Doth your Minister refuse
to give the Sacrament to any in the Parish, and for what cause?
Or doth he give it to such as are scandalous, or notorious sin-
ners, or to any Excommunicate persons? Doth he duly Ad-
minister the Blessed Sacrament three times every year at the
least, whereof *Easter* to be one?

VIII. Doth your Minister Marry any Persons in Private
Houses, or such as are under age, not having the consent of
their Parents and Guardians? Doth he Marry any without
Banns first published three Sundays or Holydays in the Church?
or at prohibited times or hours, without Licence so to do?
Or with the Licence of any other than the Archbishop, Bishop
of this Diocese, or his Chancellor?

IX. Doth your Minister duly bid and observe Holy-days,
and Fasting-days, as is appointed? And doth he then use
the Forms of Prayer prescribed by the Church? Hath he
taken upon him to appoint any private Fasts, or Religious Ex-
ercises, without Lawful Authority? Doth he, or any other
(Minister or Lay person) in your Parish, hold any Conventi-
cles, or Religious meetings for people of several Families to
resort unto, contrary to the Laws in that case provided?

X. Is your Minister constantly resident among you, and how
many weeks in the year hath he been absent from his Benefice?
Hath he a Curate to assist him in his absence or presence? Is
that Curate in Holy Orders, and hath he a Licence from
the Bishop, to serve the said Cure? Doth he carry
himself in all things as an able and discreet Minister, and
conformable

conformable to the Church of England? Doth he serve any more Cures beside that of your Parish, and at what distance? And doth any Lay-man, not being in Holy Orders, presume to read Publick Prayers in the Church? Is there in your Parish any Lecturer? Is he in Orders, and duly Licenced? Doth he read Divine Service before his Lecture? And is he conformable to the Discipline of the Church of England?

XII. Doth your Minister every six months publickly denounce all such as persevere in the Sentence of Excommunication, not seeking to be Absolved? Have any Excommunicate Persons been received into the Church, without a Certificate from the Ordinary of their Absolution? Or any so dying, buried with Christian Burial?

TIT. III.

Concerning Parsonages.

I. ARE there any in your Parish who are reputed Heretics or Schismatics, refusing Communion with the Church of England? Any Impugners of the Religion established, of his Majesties Supremacy, or of any of the Laws, Rites, and Ceremonies Ecclesiastical? Have any spoken or declared any thing in derogation, or to the depraving of the Form of Gods Worship in the Church of England, and Administration of the Sacraments, prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer, as it is now Established by Law? Are there any convicted Papists, known Anabaptists, or Quakers, in the Parish?

II. Are there any in your Parish who lie under a common fame, or vehement suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards, Swearers, or Blasphemers of Gods Holy Name and Word? Are there any Excommunicate persons, or any who countenance, or keep company with them? What punishment for any such offences have been commuted and exchanged into a Pecuniary Mult or Sum of Money by any Ecclesiastical Judge, exercising Jurisdiction within this Diocess, by virtue of any Grant or Commission? What was the Sum of Money by them, or any of them so received and taken, and to what uses was the same bestowed?

III. Do

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III. Do any of your Parish prophane the Lords Day by neglecting of publick holy Duties, or by doing the works of their ordinary Calling, or using unlawfull Recreations, or permitting their Children and Servants to do so? Do they observe other Holidays, Festivals and Fasts appointed by Authority?
 IV. Do all those who inhabit in your Parish, duly resort to your Church (or Chappell) and continue there during Divine Service, Sermon, and other Holy Duties, with that reverence, order and decency, as befits devout Christians? Or have any occasioned riot, clamour, or fighting in the Church at any time? Is there any Reluctant, Papist, or Sectaries in your Parish? Do they, or any of them keep any School-master in their House, which cometh not to Church to hear Divine Service, and receive the Holy Communion?

V. Are there any in your Parish who refuse to have their Infant-children Baptized by your Minister? or do they keep them unbaptized longer than the Church allows? and what Infants, or more aged persons, are there in your Parish unbaptized?

VI. Do all your Householders duly send their Children, Apprentices, and Servants to be Catechized? And do they take care (when occasion is offered) they should be Confirmed by the Bishop?

VII. Is there any person in your Parish so confirmed and instructed, and being sixteen years of age, who refuseth to receive the blessed Sacrament of the Lords Supper, at least three times every year, whereof Easter to be one? And do all receive this Sacred Mystery with that outward gesture of humility and reverence as becomes them, meekly kneeling upon their knees, according to the order and custom of the Church?

VIII. Are there any in your Parish who are known or suspected to be unlawfully Married, contrary to the Laws of God and this Church? Are there any, who being lawfully Married, (and never Divorced) do yet live asunder? Or any, who being lawfully Divorced, do live together again? Or being separated for Adultery, have afterwards intermarried with any other, during the life of their first Consort?

IX. Are there any married Women in your Parish, who after their safe delivery from Childbirth, refuse to make their humble and publick Thanksgivings to God, according to the appointment of the Church.

X. Are,

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X. Are there any of your Church, who refuse to pay their Easter Offerings, and other Duties to your Minister? Or to pay the Rates assessed on them, for the repair and provisions of the Church?

XI. Do you know, or have you heard of any Patron or other person in your Parish, who having the Gift of an Ecclesiastical Benefice, hath made gain, thereby upon any Bargain, either for Money, Pension, Lease, Relieve or Vintages, or Glebe, or other Simoniack Compact whatsoever?

XII. Do any among you refuse to bury their Dead, according to the Rites of the Church of England? Are there any Wills of deceased persons improved, or Goods not administered? Do you know of any Legacies given to your Church, or the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in London, or to the Poor, or to other charitable uses, not yet received by you, or detained from you, or not applied to the charitable uses appointed? Do any young Maidens? Doth the Rector duty, and bring all his young Maidens as are committed to his care?

III. Concerning the Officers, Ministers, and Churchwardens, without Licence from the Ordinary.

I. Are the Church-Wardens of your Parish yearly chosen according to Law? And are there Sidemen appointed to assist them, for the due ordering of the Church?

II. Have the former and last Church-Wardens given up their Accounts to those that succeed them, together with all Moneys, and other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

III. Have you a Parish Clerk, aged twenty years or less, who is of sober Life and good report, is recommended by your Minister, and approved by the Parson? And is he able for Reading, Writing, and Singing, at a Church? And his Wages duly paid him?

IV. Doth he or your Sexton take care of your Church, to keep it lockt and clean, to open the doors, and ring the Bells in due time, to call the Living to the Worship of God; also to admonish them by Tolling of a Passing-Bell for any that are dying, thereby to meditate of their own death, and to commend the others weak consciences to the mercy of God?

Advertisements.

I. **E**Very Parson and Vicar, and (in their lawful absence) the Curate of any Parish, may join in Presentments with the Church-wardens and Side-men; and if they will not Present, then the Ministers themselves (being the Persons that have the chief care of suppressing Sin and Impiety in their Parishes) may Present such Crimes as are against the Ecclesiastical Laws, and want due Reformation. *Can. 113.*

II. **T**He Ministers are to take notice, that the Bishop at his Visitation, will be ready to Confirm the Youth who shall be fitted and brought before him; and therefore they are desired, by diligent Catechizing in the Grounds of Religion, to prepare those under their charge, and bring them at the time appointed, to the Bishop: For as (*de Jure*) he cannot, so (*de Facto*) he will not Confirm any, save such who have been duly Catechiz'd, and (by their Pastors Testimony) have attain'd such a measure of Knowledge of the Principles of Christian Religion, as may render them capable of Confirmation.

T. LINCOLN.